

## **Maine CDC/DHHS Public Health Update**

**June 3, 2010**

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### **AIR QUALITY & CARBON MONOXIDE ALERTS**

Smoke from continuing wildfires in Quebec can cause high Particle Pollution values here in Maine, at times reaching unhealthy levels. Read this Air Quality Alert for more information:

<http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/attach.php?id=98282&an=2>

Carbon monoxide poisoning is a concern as people open camps for the summer season. Maine CDC urges camp owners to make sure their propane-fueled stoves and refrigerators are working properly and exhaust gases are venting safely when turned on for the season. Campers should make sure they have working carbon monoxide detectors equipped with a battery back-up located close to where people sleep. These detectors can be found at most hardware stores and places that sell smoke detectors. Boaters are also at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning, and should stay away from exhaust vent areas, like the back platform. They should not swim in these areas when the motor or generator is on. For more information, see this press release:

<http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=DHS+Press+Releases&id=98052&v=article>

### **HEALTH REFORM**

A draft State Health Plan was reviewed by the Advisory Council for Health Systems Development on May 20. A new version for public review has been posted at [http://www.maine.gov/governor/baldacci/cabinet/health\\_policy.html](http://www.maine.gov/governor/baldacci/cabinet/health_policy.html). Major changes recommended by the Advisory Council are reflected in the revised draft or a placeholder has been inserted and highlighted. Members of the public are invited to submit comments.

Chapter VII addresses the implications of national health reform for Maine. Although this is treated as a separate chapter, it is implicit that all other activities in the State Health Plan will be integrated into reform efforts.

Written comments will be accepted through 5 p.m. on **June 18**. Please direct such comments to Laurie Halligan, Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance, 15 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333.

This Kaiser Health News blog describes what Health Reform means to the average person:

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2010/June/02/What-The-Health-Law-Means-To-You.aspx>

This site has additional questions and answers: <http://www.healthreform.gov/about/answers.html>

The National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems has posted a number of resources related to Health Reform implementation here: <http://www.naph.org/Main-Menu-Category/Our-Work/Health-Care-Reform.aspx>

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has invited states to apply to participate in the Multi-payer Advanced Primary Care Practice Demonstration, an initiative in which Medicare will join Medicaid and private insurers in state-based efforts to improve the delivery of primary care and lower health care costs. For more information: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/06/20100602b.html>

## INFLUENZA UPDATE

### *What's New with Flu?*

**Flu Activity.** The final national report of the 2009-2010 season is posted [here](#). The first weekly influenza surveillance report of the 2010-2011 season will be published on October 15, 2010. There was no reported influenza activity in Maine last week. Maine's weekly influenza surveillance report can be found [here](#).

In preparation for the 2010–2011 flu season, CDC has provided buttons and badges for public use: [http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/buttons\\_badges.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/buttons_badges.htm)

### *Ongoing Flu Issues:*

**State-Supplied Flu Vaccine Populations.** Influenza vaccine is recommended for **all** people for the 2010-2011 season. Although Maine CDC does not and never has provided the majority of seasonal flu vaccine in Maine, the list of populations that are eligible for state-supplied vaccine are:

- all Maine children ages 6 months to 18 years-old;
- employees of schools that are providing onsite vaccine clinics on school days;
- pregnant women and their partners;
- nursing home employees and residents;
- adults who are uninsured or underinsured; and
- patients of tribal health centers or municipal health departments.

These populations were selected based on several factors, including: populations designated by some of the vaccine funding sources available (federal funding sources for flu vaccine for some children); populations without other easy access to vaccine (homeless shelter residents, people without insurance); and people who are at high risk for severe complications (pregnant women, nursing home residents). Seniors and health care workers are in high priority groups for vaccine, but generally have existing access to flu vaccine that is not dependent on state dollars. Providers may also purchase privately supplied vaccine for any and all patients.

Those who receive state-supplied vaccine may bill insurance for an administration fee or request donations from patients. Patients may not be charged an out-of-pocket fee for state-supplied vaccine.

**Please note that, as in years past, the only state-supplied vaccine available for health care workers is for those who work in nursing homes. However, we strongly encourage all health care personnel, including EMS, to be vaccinated.**

Anyone wishing to provide state-supplied flu vaccine in the fall must be a registered Maine Immunization Program (MIP) provider by completing and submitting [the 2010 Provider Agreement form](#). Vaccine order forms have been sent to all registered providers.

**Disposing of Unused/Expired Vaccine.** US CDC continues to develop its national plan for collecting and disposing of expired vaccine. A letter explaining the details of this plan is expected soon. All registered H1N1 providers will receive a blast fax from the Maine Immunization Program as soon as the details from US CDC are available. Providers who were

not registered to receive H1N1 vaccine directly should contact the provider who redistributed vaccine to them for this information.

US CDC issued this [Q&A](#) on 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine with long-dated expirations.

## STUDY SUPPORTS HMP-FUNDED SCHOOL HEALTH COORDINATORS

A paper published in the April 2010 issue of the *Journal of School Health*, found a relationship in schools between having a School Health Coordinator and having program and policies in place that foster healthy lifestyles. The paper, titled “Impact of a School Health Coordinator Intervention on Health-Related School Policies and Student Behavior,” found that intervention schools were more likely to be associated with physical activity intramural offerings, improved nutritional offerings, and tobacco cessation programs. In intervention schools, supportive school policies were associated with decreased soda consumption, decreased inactivity, and decreased tobacco use. The Healthy Maine Partnership (HMP) has funded School Health Coordinators as part of Maine’s Coordinated School Health Program since 2001; the model appears viable to replicate across all schools in Maine.

## OTHER UPDATES

- National Recreational Water Illness Prevention Week was May 24-30, but recreational water illnesses can and will be spread throughout the summer. For more information about protecting yourself and others from recreational water illnesses, visit: [www.mainepublichealth.gov/healthyswimming](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov/healthyswimming)
- The US Department of Health and Human Services and the Institute of Medicine have launched a national initiative to share a wealth of new community health data that will drive innovation and lead to the creation of new applications and tools to improve the health of Americans. For more information: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/06/20100602a.html>
- The US Food and Drug Administration has posted this food safety blog, which has helpful information about keeping food safe in the event of power failures this summer: <http://www.foodsafety.gov/blog/hurricane.html>

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TRAININGS

- **State Health Plan.** Public hearings on the State Health Plan will be held next Wednesday, **June 9**. A version for public review has been posted at [http://www.maine.gov/governor/baldacci/cabinet/health\\_policy.html](http://www.maine.gov/governor/baldacci/cabinet/health_policy.html). Public hearings will be held from **9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the USM Wishcamper Campus, Muskie School of Public Service, Lee Community Hall, Room 103, Portland**; and from **2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 209 Cross Office Building, Capitol Street, Augusta**.
- **Summer Institute.** Project LAUNCH and the Community Caring Collaborative hold a Summer Institute annually in Washington County. This year’s institute – “Early Childhood Experiences: Impacting the Future” – will be held **June 25-26 at the University of Maine at Machias**. Youth Institutes for children ages 6-12 and ages 13-17 run concurrently and are free. Sessions include: Mental Health Consultation, Bridging Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to Community, ACEs Scoresheet Use and Patient Relationships, Developmental Pediatrics, Impacts of Substance Use on Pregnancy, and Resiliency. The full event brochure and registration form are available here: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/2010-Summer-Institute-Brochure.pdf>
- **Infectious Disease Conference.** Since 1983, Maine CDC’s Division of Infectious Disease has organized an annual infectious disease conference targeting public health issues of emerging concern. This year’s conference will be held from **8 a.m. to 4 p.m. November 9 at the Augusta Civic Center**. Health care

practitioners, laboratorians, and public health partners are invited to receive current information on surveillance, clinical management and diagnosis, and disease control interventions. The conference will feature cases of interest, epidemiology presentations, and clinical updates. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

## STAY UPDATED

- **Follow Maine CDC's Social Media Updates:**
  - **Facebook** (<http://www.facebook.com/MaineCDC>)
  - **Twitter** (<http://twitter.com/MEPublicHealth>)
  - **MySpace** ([www.myspace.com/mainepublichealth](http://www.myspace.com/mainepublichealth))
  - **Maine CDC's Blog** (<http://mainepublichealth.blogspot.com>)
- **For clinical consultation and outbreak management guidance**, call Maine CDC's toll free 24-hour phone line at: 1-800-821-5821.
- **For general questions on flu**, call 2-1-1 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days per week or e-mail [flu.questions@maine.gov](mailto:flu.questions@maine.gov)